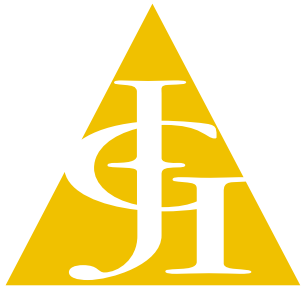


# CJI Planning Survey

1999

## Highlights And Findings





I N D I A N A  
**CRIMINAL JUSTICE**  
I N S T I T U T E

**Authors**

►► Mary Ziemba-Davis and Brent Myers

**Editor**

►► Tammy Rabe

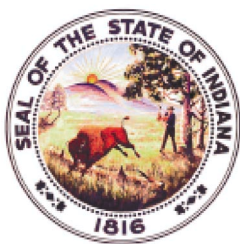
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Address correspondence to:  
Director of Research  
Indiana Criminal Justice Institute  
One North Capitol Avenue, Suite 1000  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2038

# **CJI Planning Survey 1999 Highlights and Findings**



**Frank O'Bannon**  
Governor, State of Indiana

**Catherine O'Connor**  
Executive Director, CJI

**Mary Ziemba-Davis**  
Director of Research, CJI

**Brent Myers**  
Research Associate, CJI



# State of Indiana

**Frank O'Bannon**

*Governor*

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## About the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

Guided by a Board of Trustees representing all components of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute serves as the state's public safety planning agency. The Institute develops long-range strategies for the effective administration of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems and administers federal and state funds to carry out these strategies.

The Institute oversees a variety of justice programs including the Governor's Criminal Law Study Commission, Governor's Commission for a Drug-Free Indiana, Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving, Victim Services, Juvenile Justice Program, Safe Haven, Drug and Crime Control Program, Criminal History Records Improvement, Law Enforcement Assistance Fund, and Police Corp.

To carry out the Institute's planning and administration mandates, the Institute's Board of Trustees identifies statewide needs and resources for fighting crime and delinquency and helping victims of crime. Information gathered from various sources is used to develop statewide criminal and juvenile justice policies and strategic plans. Sources of planning information include the following:

- Evaluations of program effectiveness;
- Research data;
- Needs assessments;
- Local units of government;
- Other state government agencies;
- Professionals involved in justice-related efforts; and
- Concerned citizens.

Indiana's 1999 Strategic Planning Survey (the Survey) serves as an important source of information for criminal and juvenile justice planning in the early years of the new millennium. The Survey captures and quantifies the experience and knowledge of more than 1,500 professionals working in criminal and juvenile justice across the state. This publication presents Survey findings and describes what we learned from this research initiative conducted in the summer of 1999.

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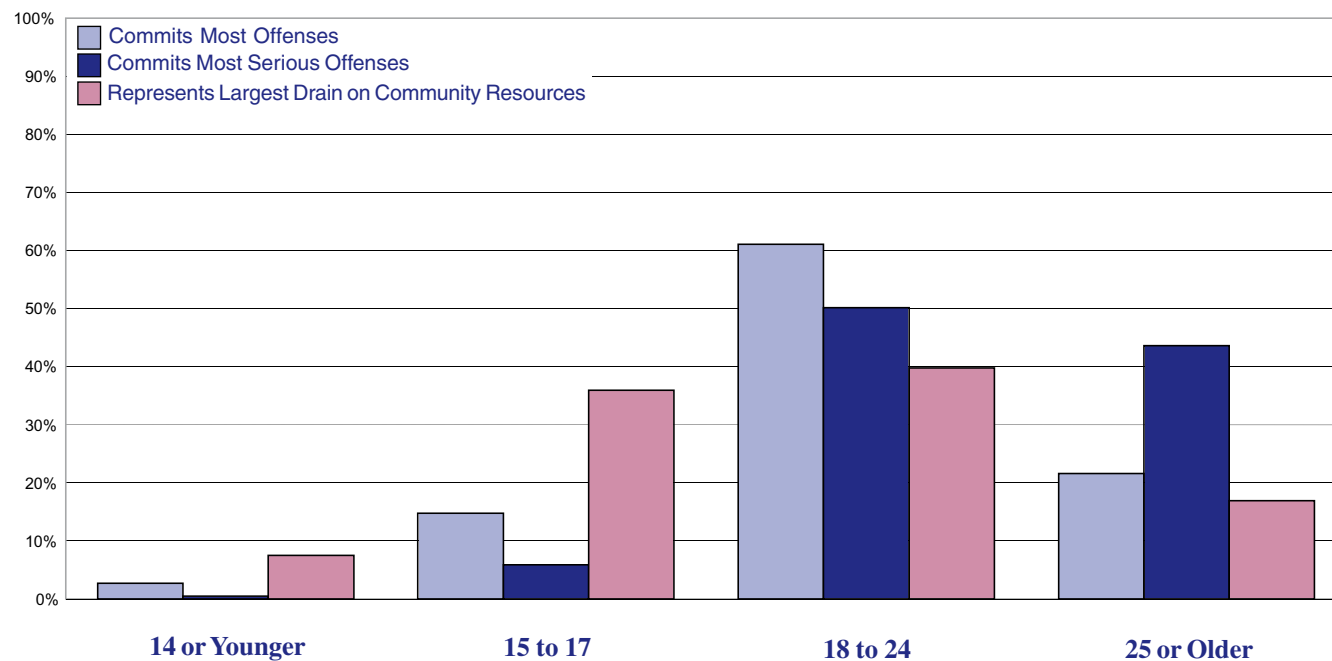
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## Age Group that Commits the Most Offenses, Commits the Most Serious Offenses, and Represents the Largest Drain on Community Resources



1,108 respondents answered question 8; 1,117 answered question 9; and 1,109 answered question 10.

**Findings:** Youth between the ages of 15 and 17 were not identified as the most frequent or the most serious offenders, but a third of all Survey respondents identified this age group as presenting the largest drain on community resources for dealing with delinquency and crime.

**Note:** Response options for all three questions were 11 or younger, 12-14, 15-17, 18-24, 25-44, and 45 or older. Extreme ends of the scale are collapsed above because they account for so few responses.

### Survey Questions

#### *Question 8:*

In your opinion, which age group commits the most offenses in your community?

#### *Question 9:*

In your opinion, which age group commits the most serious offenses in your community?

#### *Question 10:*

In your opinion, which age group represents the largest drain on your community's resources for dealing with delinquency/crime? By resources we mean money, people, time, physical space, etc.

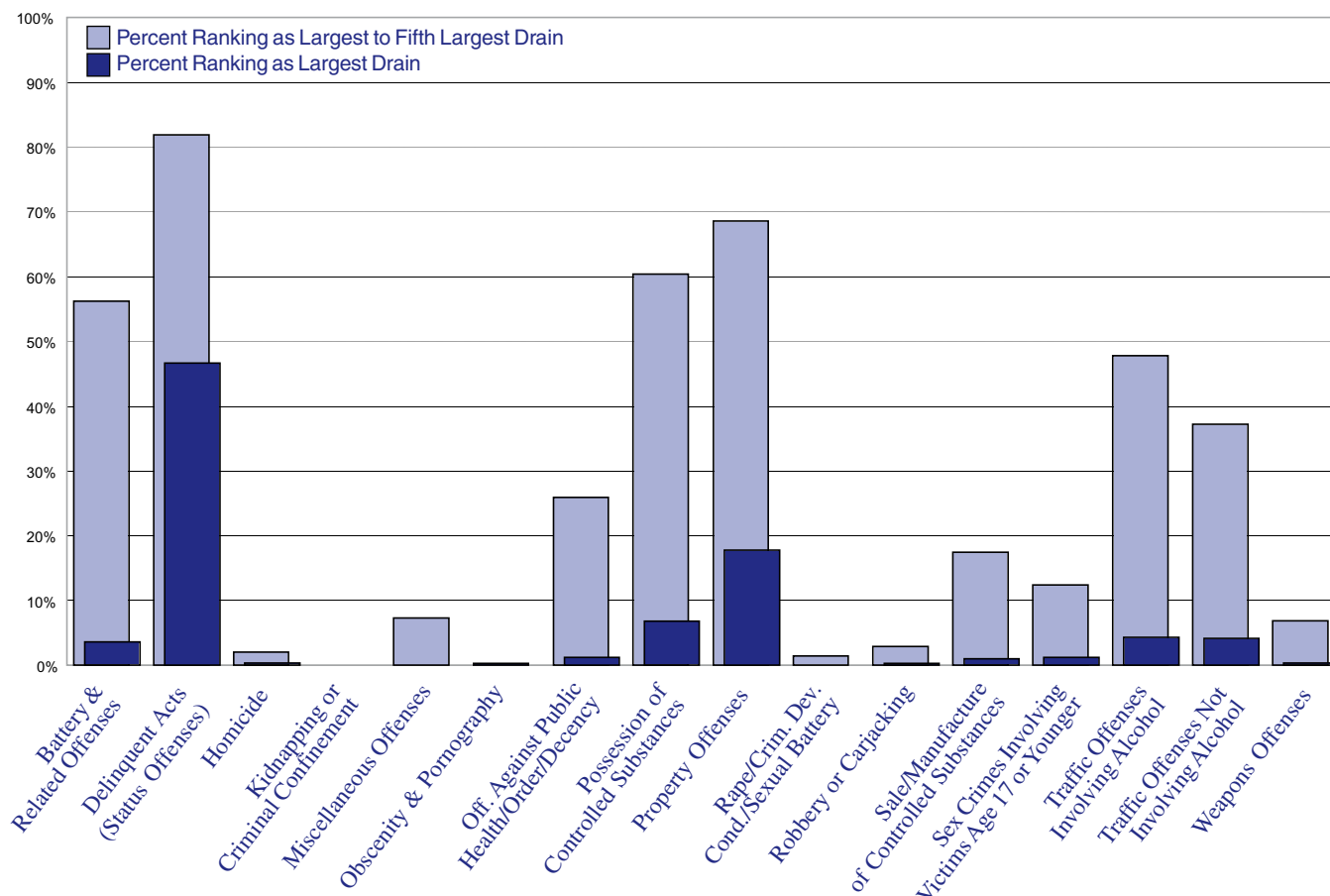
## Juvenile Offenses Creating the Largest Drain on Community Resources

### Survey Question

#### Question 11:

On the following list, rank the five offenses committed by youth age 17 or younger in your community that you think create the largest drain on your community's resources. By resources we mean money, people, time, physical space, etc.

Place 1 next to the offense that creates the largest drain, 2 next to the offense that creates the second largest drain, 3 next to the offense that creates the third largest drain, 4 next to the offense that creates the fourth largest drain, and 5 next to the offense that creates the fifth largest drain on community resources.



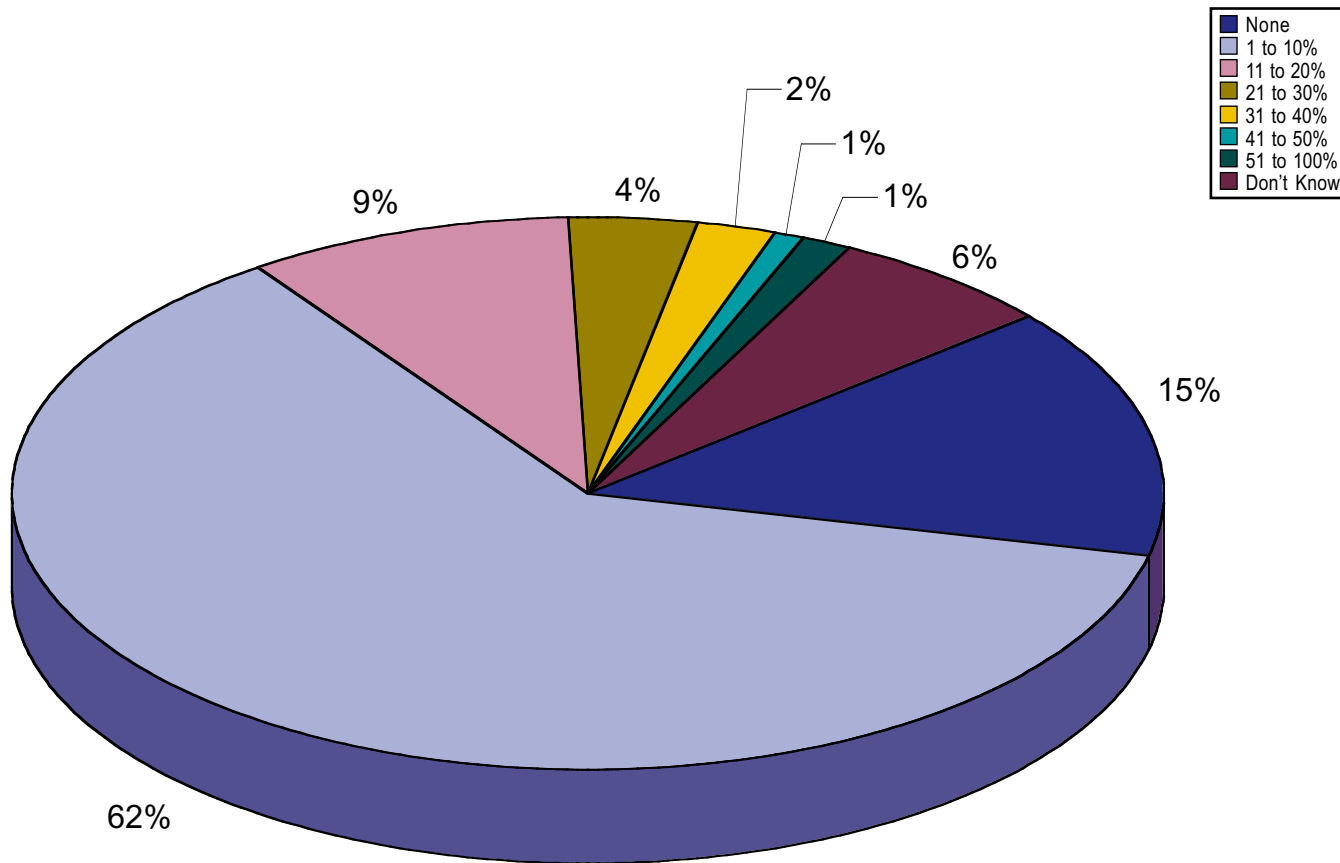
Percent ranking as the largest drain was calculated by dividing the number of respondents ranking an item as the largest drain by 1,135 (the number of respondents returning the survey). Percent ranking as the largest to the fifth largest drain was calculated by summing the number of respondents ranking an item as the largest, second largest, third largest, fourth largest, and fifth largest drain and dividing that sum by 1,135.

*Findings:* One-half or more of all respondents ranked battery and related offenses, delinquent acts, possession of controlled substances, and property offenses among the top five largest drains on community resources. Forty-seven percent ranked delinquent acts as the *largest drain*.

*Note:* The sixteen offenses, derived from and defined by the Indiana Juvenile and Criminal Codes, were presented in alphabetical order to avoid biasing responses to this question.



## Juvenile Offenses Involving an Illegally Obtained Firearm



### Survey Question

#### *Question 12:*

**In your opinion, what percent of offenses committed by youth age 17 or younger in your community involve an illegally obtained firearm?**

1,097 respondents answered this question.

*Findings:* Seventy-seven percent of respondents indicated that 10% or less of juvenile offenses involve an illegally obtained firearm. (Sixty-two percent answered 1-10% and 15% answered none.)

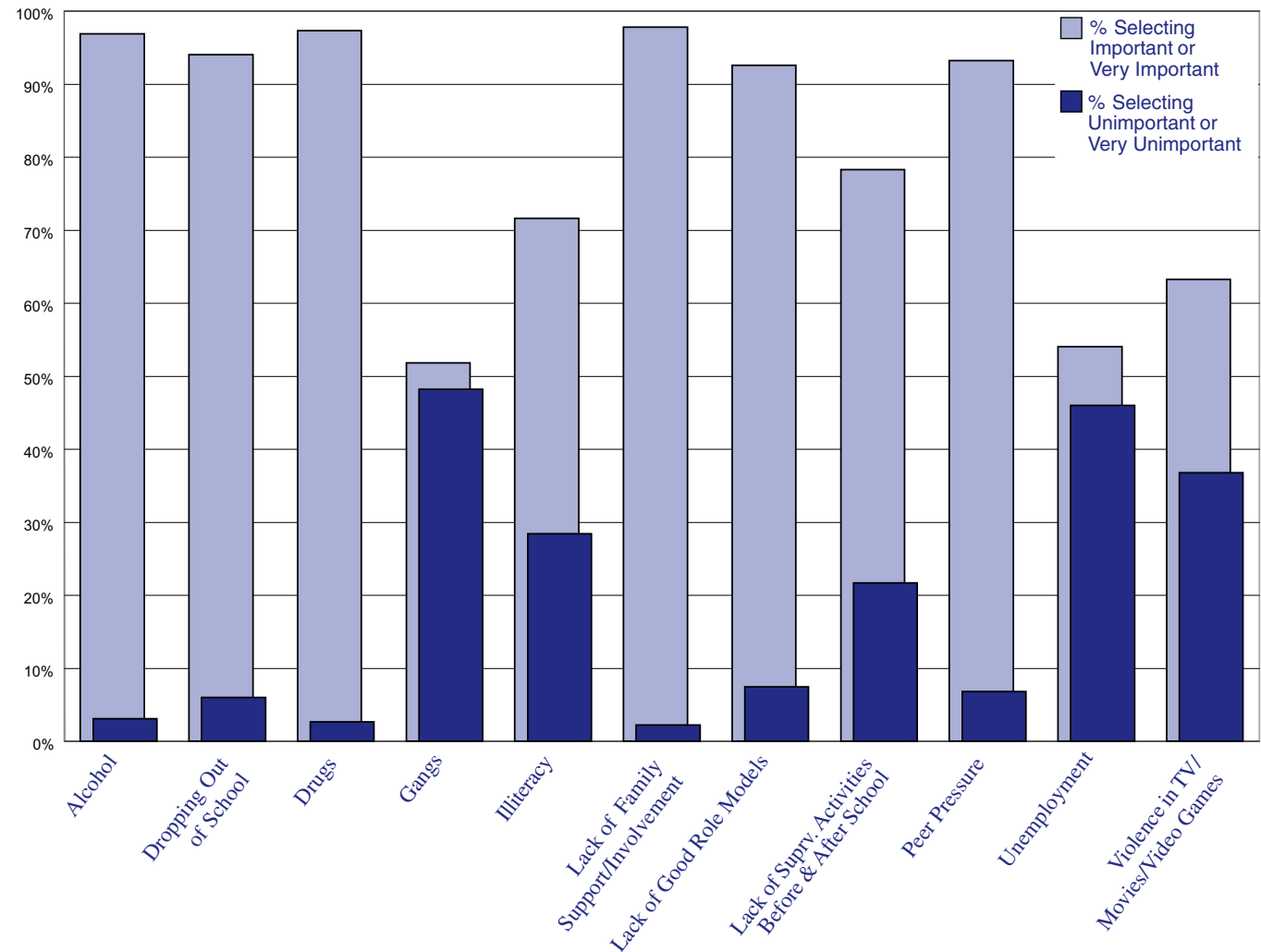
*Note:* Response options were presented in increments of 10 ranging from 1-10% to 91-100%. Responses at the upper end of the scale are collapsed above because they account for so few responses.

## Factors Contributing to Juvenile Delinquency

### Survey Question

#### Question 13:

The following factors have been discussed as possible contributors to delinquent acts and offenses committed by youth age 17 or younger. Please circle one number on each line to indicate whether you think each factor is very unimportant, unimportant, important, or very important as a contributor to the juvenile delinquency/crime problem in your community.

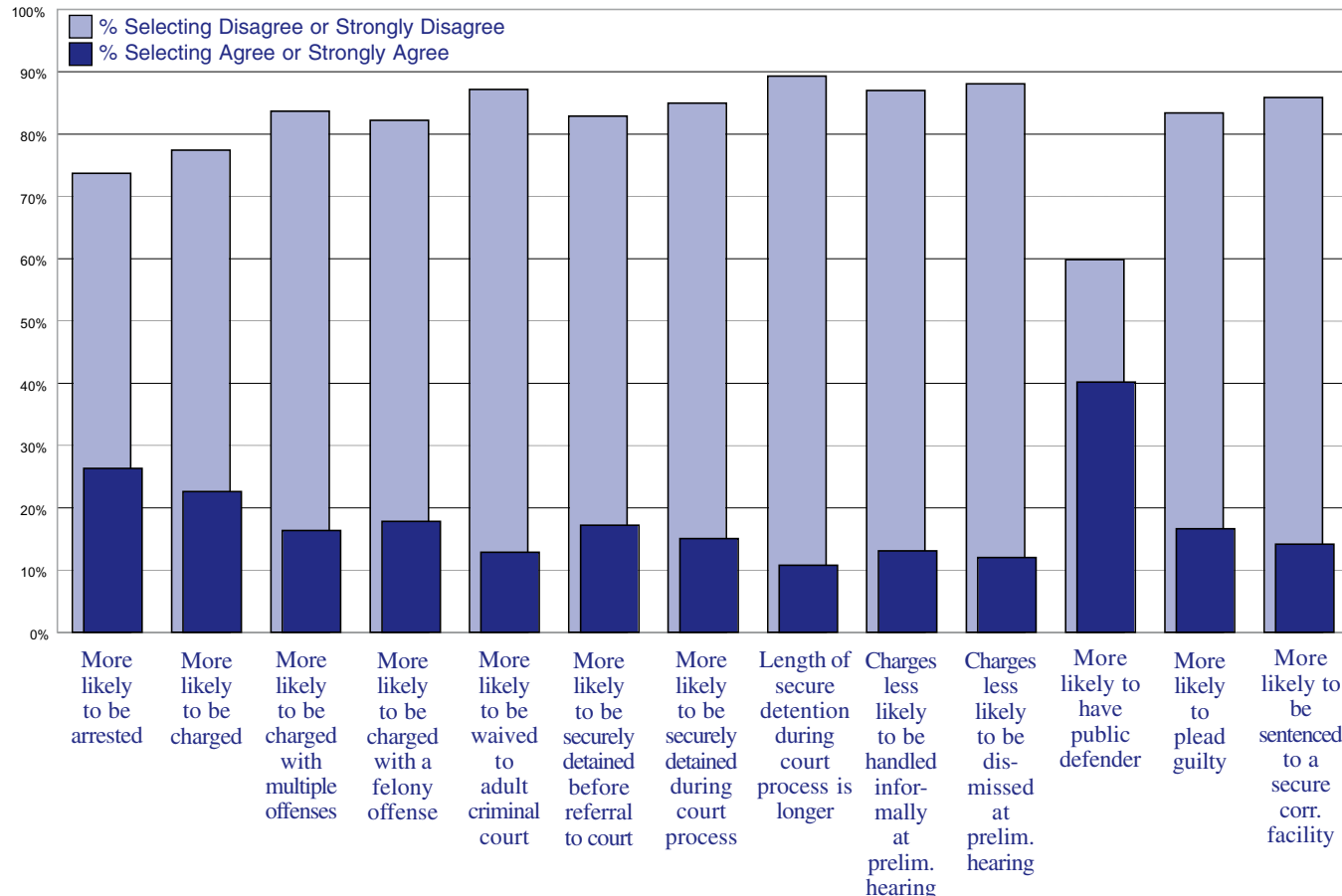


The number of respondents answering this question varied for each item, ranging from 1,075 for gangs to 1,094 for alcohol.

*Findings:* Alcohol, dropping out of school, drugs, lack of family support/involvement, lack of good role models, and peer pressure were chosen as important contributors to juvenile delinquency by more than 90% of respondents. Although half of all respondents thought that gangs and unemployment contribute to juvenile delinquency, roughly half thought that these factors are unimportant.



## Minority Representation at Various Stages of the Juvenile Justice System



The number of respondents answering this question varied for each item, ranging from 1,039 for more likely to plead guilty to 1,064 for more likely to be arrested.

**Findings:** Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with thirteen different statements indicating that minority youth are overrepresented in Indiana's juvenile justice system. For 10 of the 13 statements, more than 80% of respondents disagreed that minority juveniles are overrepresented relative to non-minority youth. Forty percent of respondents believed that minority juveniles are more likely than non-minority juveniles to have a public defender.

### Survey Question

#### Question 14:

In recent years, the United States Congress and the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention have required most states to identify whether minorities are overrepresented at each of the major decision points in the juvenile justice process. Minorities are defined as African-Americans, American Indians, Asians, Pacific Islanders and Hispanics.

The key question is whether minorities are disproportionately represented in a particular juvenile population relative to the percent of minorities among all juveniles in your community. For example, if minority members represent 20% of all juveniles in your community, but represent 50% of all juveniles arrested in your community, they are said to be overrepresented in arrests. Identifying the existence of overrepresentation says nothing about the reasons for overrepresentation.

We would like to know your opinion about overrepresentation in your community with respect to minority youth age 17 or younger. Circle SD if you strongly disagree, D if you disagree, A if you agree, or SA if you strongly agree with the statements below.



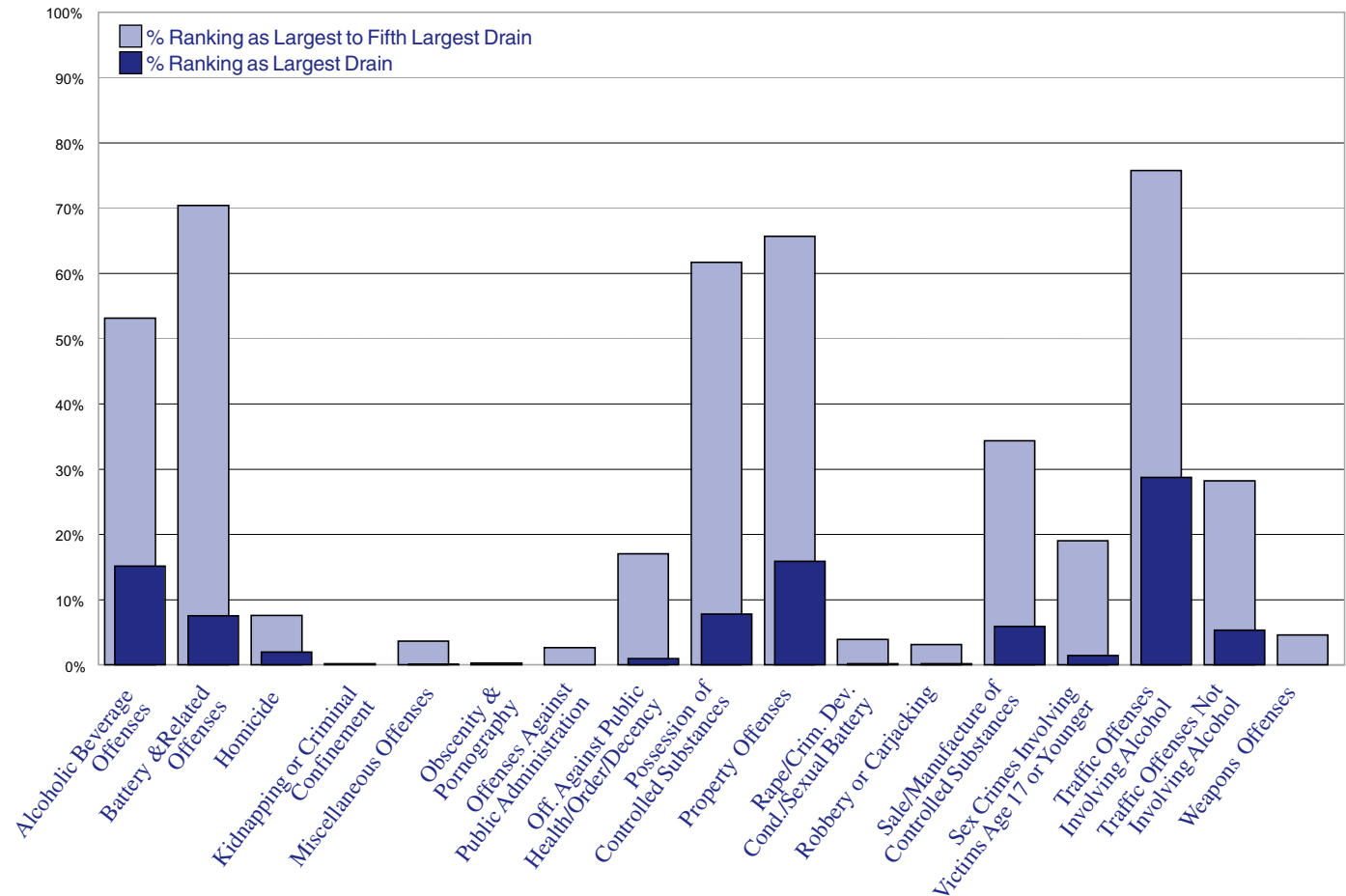
## Adult Offenses Creating the Largest Drain on Community Resources

### Survey Question

#### Question 15:

On the following list, rank the five offenses committed by persons age 18 or older in your community that you think create the largest drain on your community's resources. By resources we mean money, people, time, physical space, etc.

Place 1 next to the offense that creates the largest drain, 2 next to the offense that creates the second largest drain, 3 next to the offense that creates the third largest drain, 4 next to the offense that creates the fourth largest drain, and 5 next to the offense that creates the fifth largest drain on community resources.

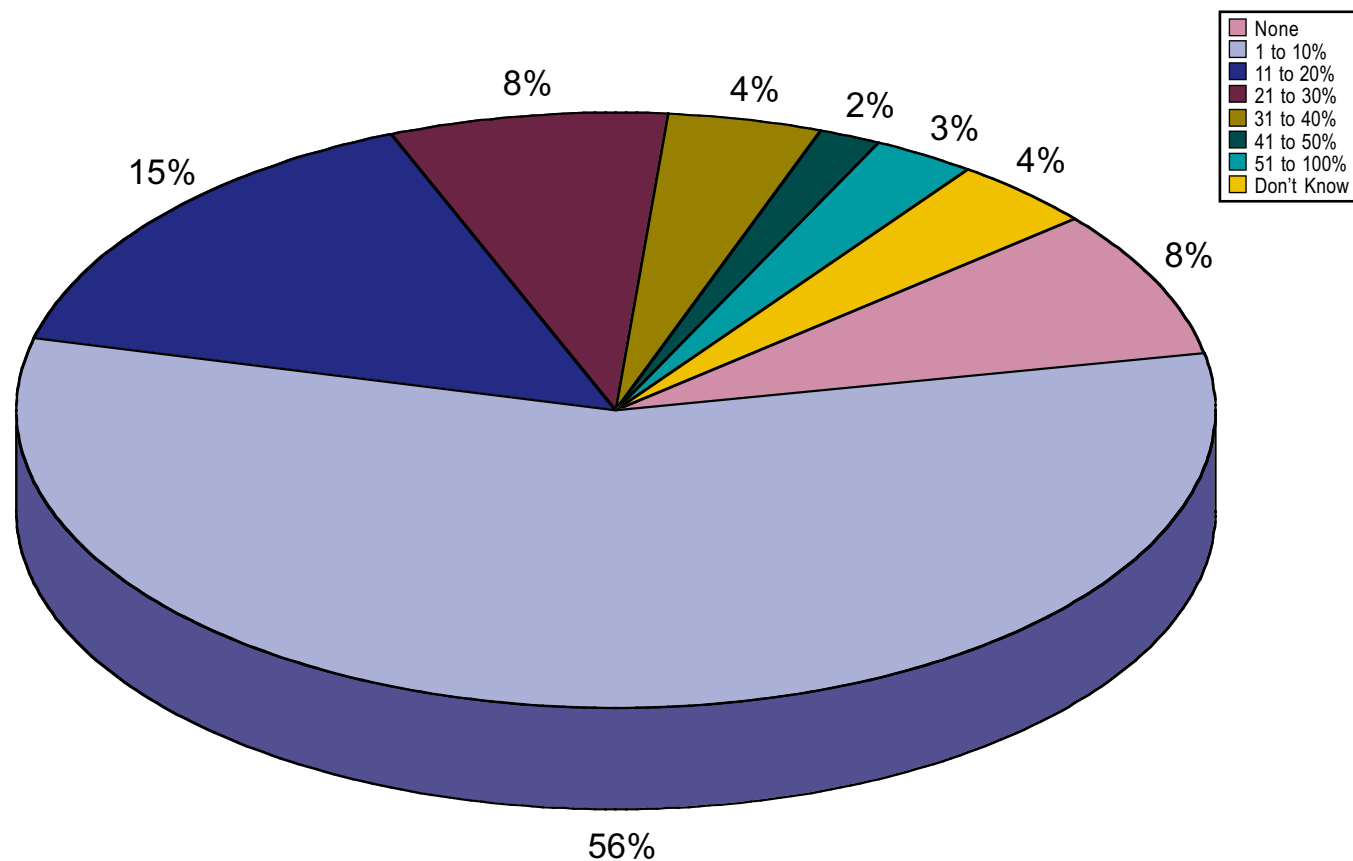


Percent ranking as the largest drain was calculated by dividing the number of respondents ranking an item as the largest drain by 1,135 (the number of respondents returning the survey). Percent ranking as the largest to the fifth largest drain was calculated by summing the number of respondents ranking an item as the largest, second largest, third largest, fourth largest, and fifth largest drain and dividing that sum by 1,135.

**Findings:** One-half or more of all respondents ranked alcoholic beverage offenses, battery and related offenses, possession of controlled substances, property offenses, and traffic offenses involving alcohol among the top five largest drains on community resources. One in 10 respondents ranked alcoholic beverage offenses, property offenses, and traffic offenses involving alcohol as the *largest drains* on resources.

**Note:** The seventeen offenses, derived from and defined by the Indiana Juvenile and Criminal Codes, were presented in alphabetical order to avoid biasing responses to this question.

## Adult Offenses Involving an Illegally Obtained Firearm



### Survey Question

#### Question 16:

In your opinion, what percent of offenses committed by persons age 18 or older in your community involve an illegally obtained firearm?

1,085 respondents answered this question.

*Findings:* Sixty-four percent of respondents indicated that 10% or less of adult offenses involve an illegally obtained firearm. (Fifty-six percent answered 1-10% and 8% answered none.)

*Note:* Response options were presented in increments of 10 ranging from 1-10% to 91-100%. Responses at the upper end of the scale are collapsed above because they account for so few responses.



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**One North Capitol Avenue  
Suite 1000  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2038**